

***International commercial air service would open door to more destinations, benefit the local economy and create new jobs***

Ronkonkoma, NY – On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Huntington) joined Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan to announce a push for Long Island MacArthur Airport to become an international commercial airport. Rep. Israel sent letters to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) urging the FAA and CBP to work with Rep. Israel and the Town of Islip to make international commercial air service at MacArthur Airport a reality.



“Long Island MacArthur Airport is a critical part of our local economy. International service would put the airport in a position to bring in new flights and attract new business opportunities and jobs to our area. I’m asking the FAA and Customs and Border Protection to work with MacArthur Airport to move this process forward and make sure we have the federal resources necessary. I’m proud to join Supervisor Nolan as well as local business associations like the Long Island Association and Association for a Better Long Island in working to ensure MacArthur Airport is a vibrant airport and a useful resource for Long Islanders,” said Rep. Israel.

“The support of the FAA is critical to any new operations, and of course, in order to bring international air service to MacArthur Airport – even from pre-cleared countries – requires a dedicated customs presence. Now, with Congressman Israel’s advocacy, we’ve truly begun a full court press to bring a carrier with international operations to Long Island,” said Supervisor Nolan.

Long Island Association President Kevin Law stated, “The health of our business community depends, in part, on a vibrant commercial airport that ensures Long Island has air access to America’s markets and destinations. Designating Long Island MacArthur as an international airport is simply good for business. I’m proud to join Congressman Israel and Supervisor Nolan in calling to make Long Island MacArthur an international airport.”

“Long Island MacArthur has reinvented itself into a 21st Century state-of-the-art transportation hub. The business community has a responsibility to be vocal, to be effective and to be a champion of Long Island’s air power.’ I look forward to continuing to work with Congressman Israel, the Town of Islip and the LIA to strengthen MacArthur Airport,” said Desmond Ryan, Executive Director of Association for a Better Long Island.

MacArthur Airport contributed to the investment of more than \$184 million along the airport corridor and the creation of more than 1,600 jobs with 200 new permits for industrial and commercial building space within three miles of the airport, including four hotels since 2004.

In January, the FAA designated MacArthur as an official New York Metro-Area airport. On any given day, one-third of all commercial aircraft in the national airspace system moves through the New York area and results in congestion and delays for travelers, which routinely impacts operations at connecting airports around the country and contributes to millions of dollars of lost productivity. A report released in January by the Regional Plan Association (RPA) entitled “Upgrading to World Class: The Future of the New York Region’s Airports” forecasted passenger volume to increase from 104 million passengers in 2010 to more than 150 million in less than two decades. Opening access to commercial international air service at MacArthur could help ease congestion in the New York area.

Opening Long Island MacArthur to international commercial air service will require cooperation with the FAA and additional resources from CBP.

Earlier this year, two prominent business organizations – the Long Island Association and the Association for a Better Long Island – launched a joint campaign with the Town of Islip to make increased air traffic at Long Island MacArthur Airport among the top priorities they share. Both agree that expanding air service, including international service, will support continued growth of the economy.

Rep. Israel has long advocated on behalf of MacArthur Airport and has secured federal funds for airport improvements.